

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 64 (RESOURCES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/2/92

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JACKO, Larson, Leman, Ivan, G.Phillips, Foster, Moyer, Mackle, Taylor, Zawacki, R.Phillips, Lincoln, Choquette, Kubina, Hanley, Navarre

A RESOLUTION

**1 Urging the media to inform the public about the quality of fresh seafood sold in the
2 United States and urging the federal government to establish a national mandatory seafood
3 inspection program and seafood labeling requirements.**

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

**5 WHEREAS the seafood industry is the largest private employer in Alaska and the second largest
6 source of revenue for the State of Alaska; and**

**7 WHEREAS Alaskans deeply care about the quality of Alaska seafood products and the national
8 and international reputation of Alaska seafood products; and**

**9 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has long maintained a year-round seafood inspection program
10 to eliminate contamination and deterioration of seafood products produced in the state; and**

**11 WHEREAS the Alaska seafood inspection program is a model program for the rest of the nation;
12 and**

**13 WHEREAS the Consumers Union of the United States, Inc., has recently published an article
14 on the quality of fresh seafood based on samples collected in only two retail markets - Chicago and New
15 York - that has seriously questioned the quality and wholesomeness of fresh seafood sold in the United
16 States; and**

1 **WHEREAS** the article is damaging to Alaska's seafood industry because it does not distinguish
2 between fresh or frozen salmon or farmed or wild salmon, identify the species of salmon tested, or
3 identify the state, region, or country of origin of the salmon and other fish tested; and

4 **WHEREAS** the article found that 43 percent of the salmon tested contained unacceptable levels
5 of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's); and

6 **WHEREAS** the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the
7 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation have stated that there are no PCB problems
8 associated with Alaska salmon; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska has the most pristine waters in the world according the National Oceanic and
10 Atmospheric Administration, as demonstrated by water quality sampling at strategic sites across Alaska;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** American per capita consumption of fish has increased nearly 25 percent over the
13 past decade; and

14 **WHEREAS** federal inspection programs have long existed for meat and poultry but not for
15 seafood;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the media to educate and
17 inform the American public about the quality of all fresh seafood sold in the United States; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress
19 to establish

20 (1) a national mandatory seafood inspection program to ensure that consumers nationwide
21 receive the highest quality seafood products possible; and

22 (2) labeling requirements for seafood products that include disclosure of the country or
23 state of origin of the seafood in the product and whether the seafood in the product is farmed or wild.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
25 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;
26 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.
27 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Edward R. Madigan, Secretary of
28 the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Honorable David A. Kessler, Commissioner, Food and Drug
29 Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Rhonda H. Karpatkin, Executive
30 Director, Consumers Union of the United States, Inc.; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
31 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
32 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.